

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJ: ANC REJECTS PROPOSALS BUT DESIRES FURTHER NEGOTIATION

REF: PRETORIA 2312

1. SUMMARY: AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REJECTED JUNE 2 TERMS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN BISHOP MUZOREWA AND PRIME MINISTER SMITH BUT VOTED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. EVEN IF AGREEMENT BASED ON MODIFIED 1971 SETTLEMENT TERMS IS REACHED, IT MAY NOT PROVE SOLUTION TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FOUR-HOUR MEETING JUNE 2, 25-MEMBER AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH ANC PRESIDENT, BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, HAD NEGOTIATED OVER TEN-MONTH PERIOD WITH RHODESIAN PRIME
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MINISTER SMITH (REFTEL). HOWEVER, ANC EXECUTIVE PROPOSED

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON QUESTIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION AND FRANCHISE.

3. ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS, PROPOSALS INCLUDED FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: SIX ADDITIONAL SEATS FOR AFRICANS IN PARLIAMENT (BRINGING THEIR TOTAL TO 22); A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION; SPECIAL TRIBUNAL TO REVIEW CASES OF ALL DETAINEES; MORE LAND TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ON FREEHOLD BASIS FOR AFRICANS; AND REPEAL OF DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION PASSED SINCE INTRODUCTION OF 1971 CONSTITUTION.

4. FOLLOWING JUNE 2 MEETING, ANC PUBLICITY SECRETARY, DR. EDSON SITHILE, SAID CENTRAL COMMITTEE REJECTED SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS BECAUSE "THEY FALL FAR SHORT OF THE ANC'S DEMANDS AND THEREFORE DENY THE AFRICAN PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY OF EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT." SITHOLE STATED THAT PROPOSALS "VIRTUALLY THOSE OF 1971", WHICH WERE SHOWN TO BE UNACCEPTABLE BY PEARCE COMMISSION IN 1972. SITHOLE CLAIMED THAT UNDER PROPOSALS IT WOULD TAKE 40 TO 60 YEARS FOR AFRICANS TO REACH PARITY WITH WHITES IN PARLIAMENT. PROPOSALS INITIALLY WOULD GIVE AFRICANS ONLY 22 SEATS TO EUROPEANS' 50. THIS, SITHOLE POINTED OUT, SHORT OF ONE-THIRD VOTE NECESSARY TO BLOCK AMENDMENT OF ENTRENCHED CLAUSES OF CONSTITUTION.

5. COMMENT: PRESS ACCOUNTS TEND TO CONFIRM EARLIER INDICATIONS (PRETORIA 3916, 10/30/73 NOTAL) THAT CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN BASED ON PREVIOUSLY REJECTED 1971 CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. IT NOW APPEARS THAT RHODESIAN REGIME MUST MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS, AT LEAST TO INCREASE AFRICAN REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT TO ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH SMITH APPARENTLY HAS SUPPORT OF HIS RIGHT-WING FOR AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MUZOREWA, HE PROBABLY HAS ONLY LIMITED FLEXIBILITY TO MEET ADDITIONAL AFRICAN DEMANDS. MUZOREWA WILL ALSO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS OF MORE MILITANT AFRICANS, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE ANC, FOR AGREEMENT WHICH IS MERELY REFINEMENT OF CONVINCINGLY REJECTED 1971 PROPOSALS. EVEN IF ANC-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT REACHED, MANY OF RHODESIA'S PROBLEMS WILL

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REMAIN UNSOLVED. GUERRILLA GROUPS HAVE MADE THEIR CONTEMPT FOR ANC ABUNDANTLY CLEAR AND WILL PROBABLY ENSURE OAU OPPOSITION TO ANY AGREEMENT, WITH RESULTING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS.
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